



UCCA ORGANIZES “RALLY OF SUPPORT “ FOR UKRAINE

On September 18th, hundreds heeded the UCCA’s call and gathered before the White House to greet Ukraine’s President Poroshenko as he arrived for his meeting with President Barack Obama.



UNIS Director, Michael Sawkiw, served as the Rally’s MC introducing dozens of speakers which included representatives from the Polish, Hungarian, Georgian, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Belarusian, and Crimean communities; who wanted to voice their support and solidarity with the Ukrainian people.



Also joining the rally was Congressman Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), who was presented with a “Friend of UNIS” award for his staunch support of Ukraine. Reading excerpts from President Poroshenko’s speech, Congressman Pascrell told those gathered that not only will Russia’s occupation of Crimea not be recognized, but will be reversed.

In a show of good faith and kindness, President Poroshenko walked over to the mass of proud Ukrainians and gave a few words of encouragement that demonstrated that this rally was not for nothing. He demonstrated that we must voice our concerns and passions if we want to see a change for the better in Eastern Ukraine. We will not stand idly by as atrocities are committed by the dictator Vladimir Putin.

THE 3RD “UKRAINIAN DAYS” OF 2014 SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED

On September 17-18, more than two dozen Ukrainian Americans from Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia met on Capitol Hill for the third Ukrainian Days advocacy event to be held this year. The event began with a briefing session hosted by the American Foreign Policy Council. Speakers included three former US ambassadors to Ukraine: Amb. John Herbst, currently director of the Eurasia Center at the Atlantic Council; Amb. Roman Popadiuk, a principal with Bingham Consulting, and Amb. Steven Pifer, currently director of the Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Initiative at the Brookings Institute. Participants were also briefed on pending legislation, including the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014 introduced Sept. 17 by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Ranking Member Bob Corker (R-TN), legislation that imposes broad sanctions on Russia’s defense, energy, and financial sectors, as well as increases military and non-military assistance for Ukraine. Congressional Ukrainian Caucus member Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-PA) on Sept. 17 led the effort in the U.S. House of Representatives to pass H. Res. 726 expressing support for Ukraine as it works to strengthen its democratic system of governance and fend off Russian aggression. He was joined on the floor by many members of the CUC, including Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ).



L to R: T. Olexy, Congressman Frelinghuysen; I. Jarosewich, D. Kolodiy

Participants met with more than 20 members from the House of Representatives, the Senate and staff during the day, including: Congressmen Frelinghuysen (R-NJ); Israel (D-NY); Hanna (R-NY); Courtney (D-CT); Deutch (D-FL); Ryan (D-OH); Maloney (D-NY); Rangel (D-NY); Pascrell (D-NJ); Stivers (R-OH); Esty (D-CT); Schwartz (D-PA); Tiberi (R-OH); Himes (D-CT); Larson (D-CT); and Senators Brown (D-OH); Blumenthal (D-CT); Toomey (D-PA); Schumer (D-NY); Markey (D-MA); Casey (D-PA); Booker (D-NJ).

POROSHENKO ADDRESSES JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

Following a grassroots effort initiated by the UCCA, to which the community actively participated, Congressman Mike Quigly (D-IL) initiated a "Dear Colleague" letter urging House and Senate leadership to invite President Poroshenko to address a joint session of Congress. The letter was supported by nearly 50 Members of Congress and culminated with a rare invitation from Speaker Boehner to President Poroshenko to address a joint meeting of Congress.

Thus, on September 18, UCCA Board members – Tamara Olexy, Andrij Futey, Stefan Kaczaraj, Marie Duplak, Roksolana Lozynskyj, Michael Sawkiw, and Andrij Dobriansky joined the delegation of Ukrainian Americans, who had been invited to sit in the chamber of the House of Representatives as President Poroshenko addressed Congress.

President Poroshenko's historic address to the Joint Session of Congress was warmly received and supported as evidenced by over a dozen standing ovations from the chamber.

During his remarks, Poroshenko made clear that his country needs lethal aid in order to combat the pro-Russian separatists who are often backed by direct Russian military support so that his nation can build "a strong, modern army that we can be proud of."

He noted that Ukraine's war against Russia is a war for "freedom, democracy, and European values." "I urge you not to let Ukraine stand alone in the face of this aggression!"



UCCA Executive Board Members (L to R) with President Poroshenko: Michael Sawkiw, Andrij Futey & Tamara Olexy.

Following the address, a private reception hosted by Speaker Boehner was held in the Capital for the President Petro Poroshenko.

UCCA BESTOWS "FRIEND OF UNIS" AWARD

On the evening of September 17th, as part of "Ukrainian Days", a congressional reception was held to commemorate Ukraine's 23rd anniversary of independence. The Congressional reception also featured a presentation of "Friend of UNIS" award to Members of Congress for their steadfast support for Ukraine. Accepting their awards were: Congressional Ukrainian Caucus co-chair Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-PA) for his leadership at the helm of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus and his sponsorship of HR5190 - the Ukrainian Security Assistance Act of 2014, as well as H.Res.726, which had passed earlier in the day, and CUC member Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL), who initiated the "Dear Colleague" letter to hold a joint session of Congress and invite President Poroshenko to speak.

SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 22ND

To mark the 81st solemn anniversary of Ukraine's Genocide, the UCCA will be holding a requiem service (panakhyda) at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. The now annual commemoration will be held on Saturday, November 22nd at 1:00PM.

We urge the Ukrainian community, to join the Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox religious hierarchy, and mark November 22nd on your calendar and join us in remembering our brethren who were starved to death in 1932-1933.

UCCA SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE AS INTERNATIONAL ELECTION MONITORS

In anticipation of the upcoming parliamentary elections in Ukraine scheduled for Sunday, October 26th, the UCCA is once again actively seeking **volunteers** to serve as International Election Observers.

If you are interested in serving as a member of the UCCA's Election Observer delegation, we require a completed questionnaire and a copy of your passport (where your photo is) be submitted to the UCCA National Office no later than **October 13, 2014!**

The Observer application and detailed information about the UCCA's Election Observer Mission can be found on the UCCA website at www.ucca.org; by emailing observers@ucca.org or calling the UCCA National Office.